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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-02 L-03 USIA-15 /073 W
----------070463 180253Z /75
R 171515Z FEB 78
FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3430
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USAREUR HEIDELBERG
USAFE RAMSTEIN
USCINCEUR STUTTGART

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 307

USEEC

MILITARY ADDEES FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB GW
SUBJ: PAY BOOST FOR NORTH WEST GERMAN STEEL WORKERS

REF: DUSSELDORF 0129

1. ON FEBRUARY 17, 1978, THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
PARTNERS OF THE NORTHWEST GERMAN IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY
AGREED ON A NEW WAGE AGREEMENT FOR THE 210,000 EMPLOYEES
OF THE INDUSTRY, PENDING RATIFICATION BY THE COMPETENT
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EMPLOYERS AND TRADE UNION BODIES.

2. THE AGREEMENT WHICH IS RETROACTIVE TO NOVEMBER 1, 1977,
PROVIDES FOR AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD PAY INCREASE OF
4 PERCENT. IN LIEU OF THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE FOR
THE FIRST THREE MONTHS (I.E. NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND
JANUARY) EACH EMPLOYEE SHALL BE PAID A LUMP SUM

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OF DM 200 (ABOUT $100).

3. COMMENT: THE UNIONS ORIGINALLY DEMANDED A SEVEN PERCENT INCREASE WHILE THE EMPLOYERS ADAMANTLY INSISTED ON A PROLONGATION OF THE OLD CONTRACT BY SIX MONTHS, AFTER WHICH TIME A 3.5 PERCENT INCREASE WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE. THE METAL WORKERS UNION REJECTED THIS OFFER AS INADEQUATE (SEE ALSO REFTEL).

4. AS A NOVELTY IN GERMAN POST-WAR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING THE EMPLOYERS IN EARLY FEBRUARY FORMALLY DECLARED BARGAINING AS HAVING FAILED. IN THE ABSENCE OF A MEDIATION AGREEMENT FOR THE STEEL INDUSTRY, THE UNION WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE POSITION TO CALL A STRIKE ON SHORT NOTICE. HOWEVER, THE UNION DRAGGED ITS FEET ABOUT RESORTING TO SUCH DRASTIC ACTION. IN THIS SITUATION THE NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIAN MINISTER OF LABOR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, FRIEDHELM FARTHMANN, OFFERED HIS SERVICES AS MEDIATOR, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED BY BOTH SIDES AND SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED AFTER ONLY TWO SESSIONS.DUX

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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